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Graham W. S. Scott,
Deputy Minister

Who cares about the land? we do!

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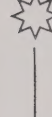


Ontario

Ministry
of the
Environment

Hon. Harry C. Parrott, D.D.S.,
Minister

Graham W. S. Scott,
Deputy Minister



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE LAND?

Growth is Happening!

In the past 25 years the population of Ontario has doubled—more development, more industry, more farmland turned into sub-divisions, more people owning cottages and camping, more goods, more services, more everything.

Growth means more municipal wastes from households and commercial establishments, sludges from sewage treatment and an increasing load of human and animal waste to find their way into or onto the land. Environment Ontario makes sure that these wastes are treated and handled properly and used well or disposed of so that they do not harm the environment.


Growth means more industry with an associated increase in hazardous, liquid and sludge wastes. Even after treatment, residues remain which must find their way onto land for final disposal. Again Environment Ontario is charged with the responsibility of ensuring these wastes are properly transported, treated and disposed of in a manner consistent with the protection of the environment.

Growth means more food production and more efficient food production. This involves better control of the insects, weeds and fungus that attack our crops, but the pesticides that control these threats to farm production can themselves be a threat to the environment. Environment Ontario classifies and regulates the sale, distribution and application of pesticides to see that properly trained people apply only the needed amount of the right pesticide for any job.

Growth means homes, businesses, industries—development which must be serviced and sited so that is is compatible with its environment.

Some development decisions are obvious . . . nobody wants to build a luxury home in an area of heavy industry. But some decisions are complex and require full study by more than one level of government, environmentalists, industry and the





general public affected. The co-ordination of this study for the best environmental results is done by Environment Ontario's specialists.

Such studies are an essential part of the Ministry's program for handling liquid and hazardous industrial waste. A typical complex decision requiring the type of study concerns establishing a number of facilities in Ontario for the treatment and disposal of these wastes. At the present time, industry does not have adequate disposal facilities and they must be found.

In addition to establishing environmentally safe disposal facilities, the Ministry of Environment recognizes a special requirement, perpetual care, in the management of waste disposal sites accepting industrial wastes. Such long-term surveillance and maintenance, and the ability to deal with contingencies ensures adequate protection of the public and the environment in the long term.

Waste is Happening!

When we put out the garbage today, it is three or four times more than we put out a few decades ago. In our homes, our offices, our stores and our factories, we produce more and more solid and liquid wastes.

As recently as 1967, most of this waste was just taken to an out-of-the-way spot and dumped. Since 1970, when the Ontario Government assumed responsibility for waste management, virtually all of these dumps have been replaced by sanitary landfill.


A ski hill in Etobicoke, a park in Milton, a golf course in Kingston, and playing fields in Toronto. Done properly, sanitary landfill is safe, tidy and ultimately may yield the community a valuable asset.

But material used in landfill cannot be reused. To reclaim these valuable, non-renewable resources we are moving into a new era in waste management through Ontario's resource recovery program.

Environment Ontario is providing financial and technical aid to municipalities to develop area waste management and handling systems to direct their garbage into the recovery stream.

In addition, as part of the Ministry's seven point program for dealing with industrial liquid and hazardous wastes financial assistance is available for substantiating new disposal and treatment technologies.

The production of liquid wastes is being inventoried and the disposal of these materials continually monitored.



More than that, the Ministry is working with industry to reduce the production of disposable products and packages and to develop markets for reclaimed material.

It is a comprehensive program that deals with all aspects of liquid and solid wastes. But that doesn't mean that we can all sit back and expect government to solve all our problems.

It's In Our Hands!

There are choices we can make as individuals.

When we buy soft drinks we can choose returnable containers as a means of avoiding waste and conserving resources.

We can use litter containers and carry litter bags in our vehicles.

When we treat our lawns and gardens with fertilizers and pesticides we can follow the environmentally sound directions on the packages.

With the implementation of the Ministry's liquid waste program, industry will now have the opportunity to dispose of their wastes in a manner ensuring the conservation of our natural environment.

By making the right choices for the sake of our environment we do our part. We also set an example for others to show them something important:

we care!

For further information:

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SEPTEMBER, 1979 L3



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